

THE NEW YORK SUN.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 4, 1861.

Reverend Father Papers.
A green envelope, bearing the printed address of the New York Sun, also addressed in writing to WILLIAM A. DOUGLAS, 98 Broadway, and containing business papers of value to the owner alone, was lost, some days ago, probably in the street. The finder will be liberally rewarded on leaving the papers at this office, or with WILLIAM A. DOUGLAS, 98 Broadway.

Death of Stephen A. Douglas.

The death of the Hon. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, at this crisis in the history of our Republic, will be regretted by thousands, and some of thousands of our citizens, as a great public calamity. If our special advice from Washington can be trusted, none will feel the blow more severely than the responsible head of the Nation at this great crisis—that other eminent son of Illinois and of the Democracy of Labor, President LINCOLN. The oneness of the Republic, the men who have elevated every political, social and moral obligation, and have taken up arms for the subversion of the Constitution and of the laws, in framing which they had a potent voice—will, in a faithful spirit, alter the death of one whose patriotic utterances have contributed, in so large a degree, to inspire the Northern democracy with an enthusiastic feeling of devotion to the Union.

No other man had such a hold upon the affections of the people as STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS. He was the representative man of the earnest, telling Democracy of the country. Rising from the ranks of the people to a position of commanding influence, he became a leader by his own merits, or forgot the grand principle which underlies all our institutions, that the people are the true source of power, and the final arbiters of public policy. As a politician, he was a shrewd and energetic beyond all competitors, and as a patriot he has been more bitterly hated by the traitors than any other man.

The name of Mr. DOUGLAS is so familiar to all our readers, and the leading incidents in his personal history have so often been published, that it is scarcely necessary to recur to them at the present time. Yet, a brief biographical sketch of the champion of popular sovereignty must be of interest. Mr. DOUGLAS was descended from a Scotch family who emigrated to this country at an early period in our colonial settlements, and settled in New London, Connecticut. Subsequently, one member of the family removed to Maryland, settling on the banks of the Potomac river, near the present site of the city of Washington.

His descent, now very numerous, are to be found in Virginia, the Carolinas, and other southern states. Another son remained in New London, and his descendants are widely scattered over the northern and western states.

The father of Mr. DOUGLAS, a physician of some repute, was born at Stephentown, Rensselaer County, in this state. When quite a young man, he removed to Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont, and after some time he returned and obtaining a good practice, he married a Miss Fisk, the daughter of a respectable farmer in Brandon. The issue of the marriage was a daughter, and a son—the subject of the present sketch—who was born on the 22d of April, 1813.

On the first of July following, Mr. DOUGLAS died suddenly of disease of the heart, while holding his infant son, STEPHEN, in his arms. We may here state that the grandmothers of Senator DOUGLAS, maternal and paternal, were both descended from WILLIAM ARNOLD, who was one of the associates of ROGER WILLIAMS in founding the Colony of Rhode Island, and whose son was appointed Governor of that Colony by CHARLES the Second. Hence the name STEPHEN ARNOLD DOUGLAS. Immediately after the death of Mr. DOUGLAS, his widow removed to the residence of her brother, Mr. Fisk, some three miles from Brandon. Her son STEPHEN was sent to the district school at an early age. He attended there steadily during the winter seasons, and worked on his uncle's farm the residue of the year.

When fifteen years of age he asked his uncle to send him to the Academy, but this uncle having married a year previously, and having an heir to his estate, refused the request. The young DOUGLAS then saw that he must depend upon his own energies, and soon after, bidding farewell to his mother and sister, set out on foot for Middlebury, fourteen miles distant, where he apprenticed himself to a cabinet maker. Though a rather sickly boy, he applied himself earnestly to his work, and displayed much mechanical skill. His health failing, he was obliged to leave the shop at the end of two years, when he entered the Academy of his native town and studied for twelve months, making remarkable progress.

In the meantime, his sister had married JULIUS N. GRANGER, Esq., of Ontario County, New York, and his mother, who was recently married to GRANGER, Esq., father of JULIUS. Young STEPHEN, at the request of his mother and stepfather, removed with them to their home near Canandaigua, and became a student in Canandaigua Academy. There he remained nearly three years, acquiring an English and Classical education, and devoting a portion of his time to law studies. At that time it required a course of seven years to entitle a student to be admitted to practice law, four years of which might be spent in classical studies, but such was the progress of young DOUGLAS that, upon a thorough examination, he was allowed a credit of three years for his classical attainments. He kept up his course, however, until he removed West in 1833.

At Canandaigua his first showing of his taste for political controversy, warmly espousing the side of Gen. JACKSON, who was re-elected President in 1835. Among his fellow students he was greatly beloved for his genial kindness and frank disposition. In June of 1833, Mr. DOUGLAS, then under twenty-one years of age, left Canandaigua to earn for himself a livelihood. He went first to Cleveland, Ohio, then to Cincinnati, from Cincinnati to Louisville, and from Louisville to St. Louis, but in none of these places could he find any prospect of success, though he met with kind friends, among whom were Mr. EDWARD BATES, then a lawyer in large practice.

Mr. DOUGLAS then turned his steps northward, and in November of 1833 landed at Alton, Illinois, with only a few cents in his pocket. He had not yet attained his majority. From Alton he went to Jacksonville, where his school friends met him to sell some of his school books. A few days after he went out to Winchester to seek employment, and was there fortunate enough to be employed as clerk for three days by an antislavery merchant, who was selling out the effects of a bankrupt merchant. His address and promptitude won him many friends among those who attended the auction, and he was induced to open a school, which he conducted for three months. At the close of that period he was admitted to practice law, and opened an office in Jacksonville.

From that time his career was upward. His energy, taste and pluck, brought him clients and made him friends. He engaged earnestly in the political discussions of that day, opposing the democratic side, and it was at

the close of his first public speech in Jacksonville, that the name of "Little Giant" was given to him. At the following session of the Legislature, he was chosen State Attorney, an office which he filled with great credit. Subsequently, he was elected to the State Legislature; in 1841, he was chosen Judge of the Supreme Court of Illinois, and in 1843, he was elected to Congress. He was re-elected in 1844 and in 1846, but did not take his seat under the last election, as, in the meantime, he was chosen to the Senate of the United States for a term of six years, from March 4th, 1847. Mr. DOUGLAS has since then been retained in the United States Senate by the state of Illinois.

The leading incidents in Mr. DOUGLAS's career as a Senator of the United States need not recapitulate. As a member of the House of Representatives, he maintained, during the Oregon boundary dispute with England, that our title to the whole of Oregon to latitude 54, 46, was indisputable. In 1846, he drafted the joint resolution declaring war on Mexico, and was a warm defender of the war with Mexico. His connection with the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, his opposition to the subsequent course of Mr. BUCHANAN towards the southern oligarchy, his chivalrous and successful campaign in Illinois, when ABRAHAM LINCOLN was his rival for election to the United States Senate, and his noble and patriotic support of the Administration of his political enemy, when LINCOLN was the executive of the Government, are matters too well known to require more than a mere mention.

This is not time to criticize Mr. DOUGLAS's qualities as a legislator and as an orator. That can be done better when the feeling which the announcement of his death causes, has lost some of its influence. He had his faults, but what man is faultless. He had his enemies, but his enemies were chiefly among those who had or have love for their country. But he had hosts of warm and attached friends, and to them his memory is endeared; while in the history of his country his name will live as the name of one of its great political leaders and patriots.

Our Board of Censors, at their meeting last evening, adopted resolutions expressive of their feeling towards the late Senator DOUGLAS. The Allenmen did not meet. The Tammany Society, of which Mr. DOUGLAS was a member, met last evening and appointed a committee to draft suitable resolutions regarding the late Senator, and to present them to the Board of Censors, which the country sustains in the death of Mr. DOUGLAS.

The First Battle.
We have news today of the first important conflict between the rebel forces and the United States troops. The rebels were ignominiously defeated, losing most of their camp equipage, arms and stores. The death of the gallant Col. KELLY, of the 1st Virginia, who led the attack on the rebel camp, will be deeply regretted. He is the first Virginian who has fallen in battle, a martyr to the cause of the Union.

Military and Naval Movements.
The War Department was engaged all yesterday in arranging for the disposition of the soldiers now at Fort Leavenworth. Companies of the 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 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